

REMARKS

The specification, drawings, and claims have been amended. No new matter has been added to the application. In a separate paper accompanying this response, the examiner's approval of proposed changes in the drawings is requested.

While there was an election of species, it is respectfully submitted that all claims, including generic or linking claims, are now allowable, so all claims should be allowed.

The drawings were objected to. The specification has been amended to overcome this objection.

The disclosure was objected to. The specification has been amended to overcome this objection. The specification has also been amended to add a written description of the angles shown in Figure 12.

The specification was objected to. It is respectfully submitted that all claims, including generic or linking claims, are now allowable, so all claims should be allowed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot.

The abstract was objected to. However, it is respectfully submitted that all claims, including generic or linking claims, are now allowable, so all claims should be allowed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot.

The claims were objected to. Claim 25 has been amended. The cited rule suggests, but does not require, that the least restrictive claim be presented first.

Regarding claim 14, the specification and claim 14 have been amended. Claims 51-57 have been amended to clarify what axes intersect where.

Claims 51-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Support for these claims can be found in Figure 2, for example. The specification has been amended to add what is shown in Figure 2.

Claims 7, 12, 16, 17, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McIntosh. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

McIntosh does not include cam rods, and thus does not anticipate the claimed invention. However, some of these claims have been amended to clarify that McIntosh does not include cam rods as specified in the claims.

Claims 7, 12, 16, 17, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being

anticipated by Orain. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Orain does not include cam rods, and thus does not anticipate the claimed invention. However, some of these claims have been amended to clarify that Orain does not include cam rods as specified in the claims.

Claims 7, 13, 14, 20, 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Isbister. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Isbister does not include cam rods, and thus does not anticipate the claimed invention. However, some of these claims have been amended to clarify that Isbister does not include cam rods as specified in the claims.

Claims 7, 13, 14, 20, 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beden. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Beden does not include a centering means. Further, Beden does not have the ring segments of claim 20.

Claims 7-9, 12-17, 25-27, 52-55 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robinson. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Robinson is not a universal joint. Rather, the two shafts are fixed in their relation to one another.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cornay. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Cornay does not include cam rods, and thus does not anticipate the claimed invention. However, some of these claims have been amended to clarify that Cornay does not include cam rods as specified in the claims.

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornay in view of Wikoff.

Claims 1-9, 12-17, 20-27 and 51-57 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,251,020. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The cited patent claims universal joints including centering means having cam bearings, while the present claims claim universal joints having centering means including cam rods.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

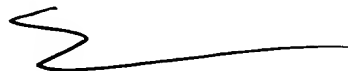
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 12, 2004.



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